

# THE Inyo County News-Letter

A NEWS ALTERNATIVE ♦ EASTERN SIERRA NEWS SERVICE

Week of  
Sept. 18, 1978

Compiled by  
John Heston  
Benett Kessler

Price at  
News stand

**60¢**

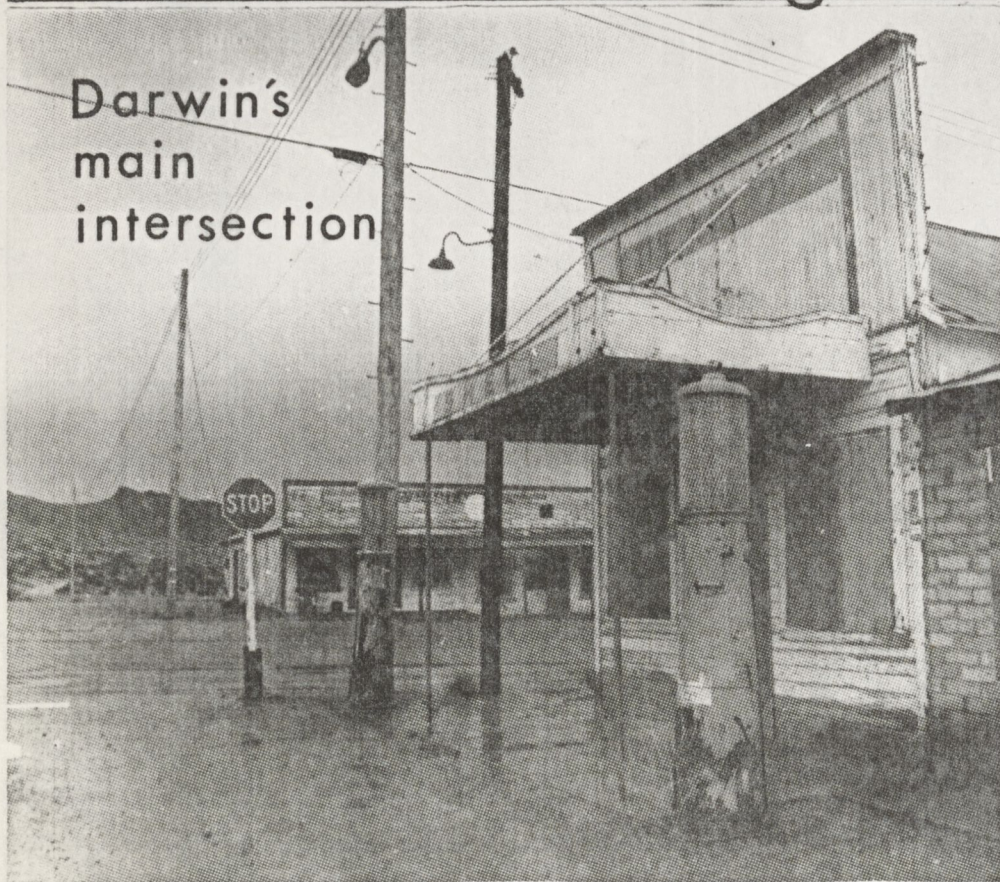
FORUM

P. 12

Another murder? P. 3

Notes from B.K. P. 13

## Darwin's main intersection



Is it ghost-town-"quaint"? - or merely forlorn?  
*Some want to keep it this way; others want new life*

## —DARWIN Troubled waters

A WET-DRY SPLIT

IF ALL GOES ACCORDING TO plan, it appears the little community of Darwin (Pop. about 30) will soon have more water. At present, its entire water supply amounts to about four gallons a minute if the line that feeds the tank is not broken, as often happens, along its eight-mile length. Water at Darwin has been a sometime thing. And while a number of residents express considerable joy over the federal grant that will pay for a workable water system, their elation, surprisingly, is not shared on the other side of the wash. And a wash it is indeed; a deep gully that divides the town in ways other than geographic-  
(See DARWIN on Page 2)

—THE COUNTY

## News Briefs

NO HELP AT \$2.65 AN HOUR; WATER METER ISSUE IN "NEGOTIATIONS"; "THE HOT HEADS" DROPPING OUT OF THE LONE PINE ISSUE; AND SCHAT DROPS OUT OF THE NEW CENTER

THERE ARE JOBS IN INYO COUNTY GOING BEG-  
ging and the difference, sometimes a big one, between what many employers are willing to pay and what the county's new breed of workers will work for may lie at the root of the problem. The whole issue came to light this week after an irate employer called his state assemblyman, Larry Chimbole, to put some heat on Rich Camillieri, Inyo's director of the Employment Development Department. The employment office director said the problem of getting the workers together with the employers is not entirely the fault of his office, and that the work force needed now in Bishop just isn't there - not at least at the rock-bottom minimum of \$2.65 that a lot of the Bishop employers want to pay. The "going rate" nowadays at Bishop is something over \$3 an hour. Camillieri declined to identify the complaining businessman, but said that "the last time we talked, we seemed to have a meeting of minds - then the next thing I get is a complaint filed with Chimbole."

And so what will the county's pinch-penny wage-payers do now? Probably, says Camillieri, they will turn to alien labor. Most anglos refuse to take the menial jobs at the minimum wage and even at higher pay they oft-

(See NEWS BRIEFS, Page 4)

—CONTESTED ELECTION

## Back to court again

TO BREAK THE TIE THAT BINDS, JACOBSON FILES A HURRY-UP CASE WITH THE HIGH COURT

IT'S SIMPLE: MOE Jacobson wants to be your supervisor.

So intent is he in getting on the November ballot - alone against Incumbent Supervisor Wilma Muth - that he took the issue to the state supreme court this week hoping to break, once and for all, the June 6 primary election tie that has bound him in a three-way race with Glidden and Muth. Election observers have long agreed that Jacobson and Glidden so split the Muth opposition vote that neither of them stand a very strong chance of defeating the incumbent. Jacobson's friends say his re-entry into the courts reflects what  
(See JACOBSON, P. 12)



Litigious Moe Jacobson  
*This time, with a lawyer*



Lorenza and Larkin McKellips were mere babes, children of a family traveling west, 1876, when, it is believed, they were stricken with disease east of what is now Keeler. Beyond that, little is known, but attempts to research the incident turned up a poem written 24 years ago by an Independence poet, and reprinted here. As the photographer prepared to take the picture, a sudden burst of late sunlight broke through immediately behind the cross, creating a striking effect.



## A WHITE CROSS by Dorothy Cragen

With anguished hearts  
The parents drove  
The horses westward  
Across the whitish land.  
They prayed that Time  
Nor animals  
Would mar the graves  
So tiny, unprotected, save  
The close packed earth  
Like windrowed sand.  
They might come back  
So they searched  
The naked land

For something that  
Would mark the spot  
Until the wagon dust  
And rolling hills  
Shut out the place.

For years the tiny mounds  
Were lost  
And then the story crept  
Across the awakened land.  
The grave was marked  
By kindly hands.  
A wooden cross was raised

And painted white  
As were the rocks  
That rimmed the mounds.

Perhaps in some bright  
Happy land  
The reunited family  
Watch, and smile  
When tourists stop  
To comment on  
The well-kept plot  
The parents hoped  
Would not be lost.

— From the book MY LAND, by Dorothy Cragen Reprinted by permission

## DARWIN, Continued

ally, cuts down through the town as a kind of line of philosophies. On one side, to some extent, are those who would like to see growth in Darwin. They know that an improved water system would bring, as one said, "green lawns like you've got in Independence," and also "about 200 people that are ready to move in." On the other side of the wash, however - on its left bank, not insignificantly - is the camp of the opponents who could live out their days quite well, thanks, with things just like they are. Leading the opposition which they admit is a minority, Gordon Newell. Newell and his friends have sometimes been referred to as "the hippie types," but in fact are a small group of hard-working, well-educated (one is a former school teacher) and articulate people who came to Darwin over the years precisely because of its few people, its abundance of open spaces and its unstructured lifestyle which they would like to perpetuate. Growth, they well know, may mean fewer dollars, but it would also mean the establishment - again - of a middle-class bedroom community no less irksome to them than say the San Fernando Valley. Newell is a first-rate creative artist, a sculptor of no small renown whose massive works decorate public buildings from Sacramento to Washington. With a rattley pickup and a rustic trailer he hauls in from miles away the

great blocks of Travertine and Carrarra shipped from overseas. He cuts and forms them for his works - like the piece he just installed on a Department of Motor Vehicles building.

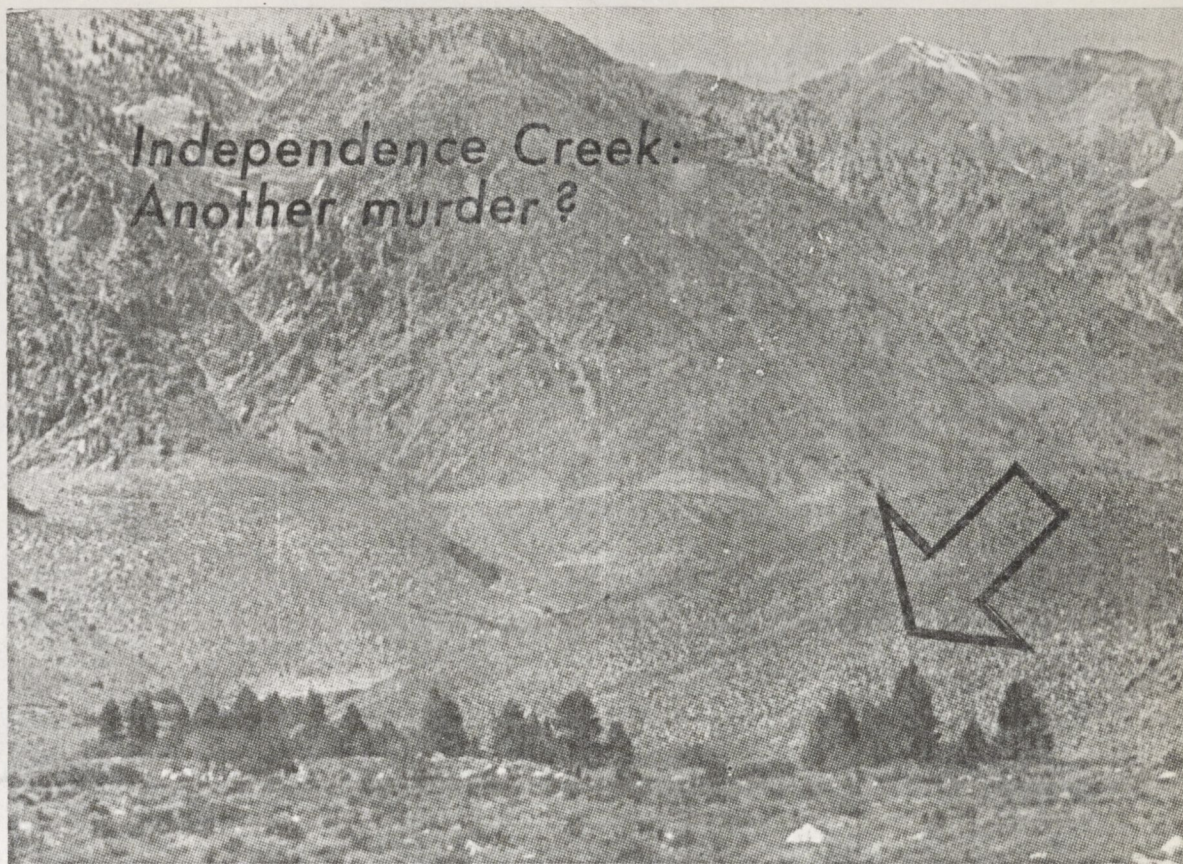
Newell's idea of growth has to do more with creative, character and mental-spiritual expansion than with bank accounts and real estate.

But Newell, too, may sooner or later be faced with the fact that a dribble of water pouring more than gushing or flowing from a one-and-a-half-inch pipe will eventually prove inadequate. On the other side of the wash is an apparent majority (They say the town is divided about 20-10) weary of the long hours wasted in constant volunteer efforts to repair the antiquated pipe system. Darwin gets its water from a spring on the China Lake Naval Base property. It flows in inconstant convulsions through a leaky system incorporating broad varieties of pipes and pipe sizes. Community survival is dependent upon everybody being a volunteer plumber.

Of Darwin's hodge-podge of pipe, county officials are neither unsympathetic nor unaware. Darwin's supervisorial representative, Richard McDonald, has supporters on both sides of the wash. All philosophical considerations aside, McDonald points out that the county health department could close down the whole town; as a rule, the town water supply has a



For a 50-year-old La Habra man, death came quickly. John E. Bade, a Gulf Oil employee, had made a number of visits to Inyo County where he liked to fish in the area's mountain streams. It was on the bank of one of these that they found his body Monday afternoon. A single bullet had pierced his body. Other fishermen along Independence Creek west of the town found him there, his fishing gear nearby and his pickup truck and camper several yards away.



## Independence Creek: Another murder?

"If it's murder," said the sheriff, "we have a possible motive."

THE SHERIFF'S PRESS RELEASE OF MONDAY AFTERNOON was perhaps even more narrowly terse than usual: "...2:30 p.m., the body of John E. Bade, 50....was found approximately 5 miles west of the town of Independence on Independence Creek. The remains were discovered by vacationing fishermen from southern Calif., who reported their find to the sheriff's department. Mr. Bade had apparently been dead for several hours, and it appears he died of a gunshot wound...."

And beyond that, even at mid-week, very little more was known for a curious public. Barton declined on Wednesday (20th) to state whether Bade was a victim of foul play or accident. "A lot of people go shooting up in that

area," said the sheriff, Floyd Barton. "But if it is a murder, we have a possible motive." He declined to say whether any obvious theft had occurred, and would not elaborate on the "motive."

An autopsy had been performed at the Owens Valley Mortuary Tuesday night, but the findings of the post-mortem were also withheld. Barton would not say what type of bullet killed the victim.

It appears now that the sheriff's men have quite enough to do about dead bodies; still unsolved is the triple-murder of several weeks ago which, as Barton said, may have gotten "too much news coverage" that may have hampered its still-ongoing investigation.

coliform count dangerously high. Many, perhaps most, of the people there drink bottled water.

But maintenance is the big problem. Paul Thompson, a water board member and a member of the "growth" camp, calls it a "constant battle." But in Darwin at least water rates are low - \$2-\$3 per month, actually a connection fee. The community service district that the board operates under is facing financial difficulties; expenses are up more than a thousand dollars, and for this year the county afforded Darwin only \$565. There has been some waste: an attempt to install 4000 feet of new plastic pipe resulted in disaster since much of the material used was either improperly installed or incorrectly fitted. The pipe now lies outside the town until someone figures out what to do with it. Nobody wants to talk about it very much. "We made some errors."

Thompson, one of the spokesmen of the "growth" philosophy, says he likes the quiet remoteness of Darwin, but he and Mrs. Thompson want the security of good water - and good neighbors. He says nearly 200 people "are ready" to move in "when we can get a good supply of water."

It is possible, too, that Thompson and some others there want growth for reasons purely financial. Thompson owns 10 lots and, if the price is right, might be persuaded to

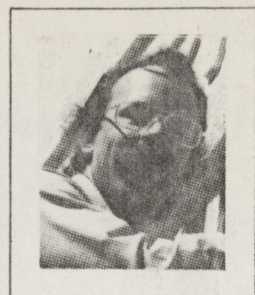
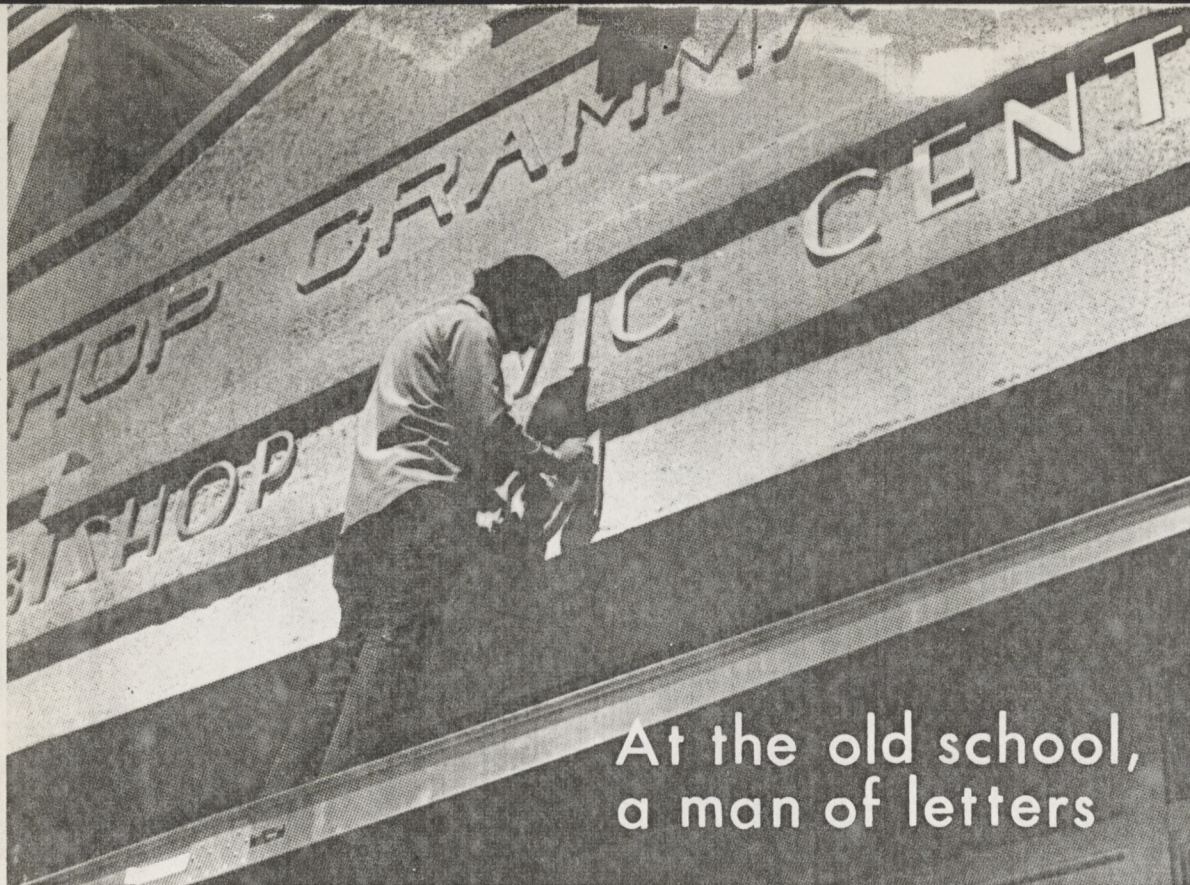
sell a few. Many of the property owners at Darwin got their lots (about 100' X 45') for the puny sum of \$5 each at a state sale. If water comes in, they'd be worth untold amounts from people looking for a secluded community far from urban woes, but yet one offering all the comforts so eagerly sought by a middle America whose values are based on tangible values.

Between the two camps there is no longer any name-calling or open hostility. "But," says Thompson, "some don't want the drop-outs here. We've worked a long time for these comforts; why should we live in a hovel?" Thompson lives in one of the town's "two-storey" houses and he and his wife have personally added-on and decorated it. They complain a little about the lack of TV, but settle on a stereo tape system and on radio for input from the "outside" world.

Newell is not inexperienced in home-owning nor in middle-class comforts. "I have a home in Pebble Beach," he says, "but there's nothing like getting back to Darwin. There is corruption in the cities; there is no present-day civilization that can avoid it. That is the natural outcome of the industrial revolution. But under a profit motive, it can't survive very long.

"I'm not prepared to offer an alternative,  
(See DARWIN on the next page)





Photos: Benett Kessler

Since 1964, Frank Linson has been "Bishop's sign man." He and his father bought the old King Sign Company when its owner, Wayne Sidwell, died. There are few business houses and company vehicles in Inyo County unlettered by Linson.

## At the old school, a man of letters

A flood at a Los Angeles sign company delayed for months the aluminum letters that will identify the Bishop Civic Center; they had been ordered by Frank Linson last December at a cost of \$500 to the city. After recovery of the Los Angeles company, the letters were finally delivered last week. In concrete above them is the old grammar school sign and "1914."

### DARWIN, Continued

and this culture is materialistic. It maximizes profit, and part of our distorted values is to do things in a hurry," says Newell. In Darwin he and his apprentices and devotees escape all that - or try to. As for the benefits of a new water system, he says, "They don't realize what they'll be losing."

But the seclusion of Darwin is considerably less than idyllic; to a great extent, aside from its more-or-less colorful frame buildings that suggest a ghost-town, it is a junk-yard by any standard. Bleached-wood and rust, the decaying mementos of its mining-day prosperity, are everywhere. But water alone will not change all that, even if people want it changed.

And then there is the question - an esthetic one - of whether banks of mobile homes stair-stepped on the hillsides will look any better. To the alarm of the left-bank residents, Darwin would make a perfect mobile home community.

And now to further complicate the issue is a lawsuit. George Truwe of Independence, a school teacher, was one of the lot purchasers back in 1967; he bought seven of them at \$5 each. And it is on some of these lots that the water district inadvertently or unthinkingly placed its sole water tank, the reservoir for the whole town. "We let it go," said Truwe, "hoping the situation would work itself out. But it hasn't. We had the opportunity to sell some of the lots, but we have to say we are in litigation. We have asked that something be resolved to the satisfaction of everyone. Our attorney has some suggestions: charge rent to the Darwin Service District, or sell them the lots. He says the idea is not to go to court with this, but to get it resolved." On the issue of growth and a new water system Truwe wants the new system. "Besides," he says, his confidence born of being in the power position, "they could probably get rid of those tanks then."

Clearly, a lot of people north of the wash want to do just that. See PP. 10, 11.

### DARWIN UPDATE

After the foregoing story was completed last week it has since been learned that the Darwin water issue appears to have escalated. It was reported that two residents have circulated a petition which seeks to defeat the \$250,000 grant that would provide the new water system. Gordon Newell and Art Volkman, another local resident, were successful in gaining 20 signatures on the petition that will be presented to county officials and a grant agency representative at a meeting next Monday night. "We wanted to make it clear," said Newell, "that not many are interested in having a new water line." Existence of the petition is thought by many in the pro-growth faction to pose a genuine threat to their chances of getting the grant which has been long-sought by them and by sympathetic county officials.

### NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

en abandon such jobs when better ones turn up. "I can't condone the hiring of aliens," said Camillieri, "but if my back were against the wall I'd turn to that too." The EDD director told news reporters that he's concerned about the future employment picture here. A new Burger King fast-food outlet is soon to open up; a new shopping center will be complete in future months - and there are continuing demands for help from other malt-burger shops, the Jack-in-the-Box and Foster's Freeze. And as Camillieri points out, when the new ski season attracts scores of workers by high pay at Mammoth, things could get worse, much worse. Meanwhile, the Chimbole-pressured EDD director allowed as how he is "tired of employers putting pressure on us to manufacture a work force." Adding to the EDD office woes: a 100% increase in referral work in the past year - and a 5% budget cut. Inyo employers may soon have to cough up more in a competing work market.

(NEWS BRIEFS Continued on Page 14)



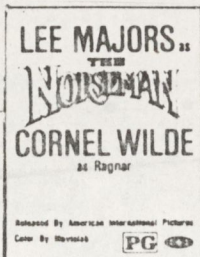
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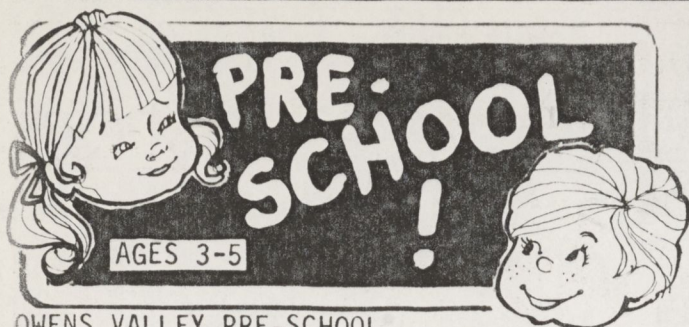
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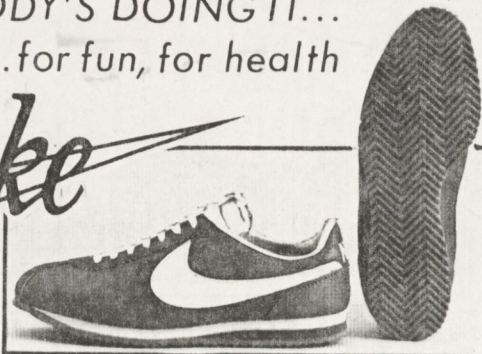
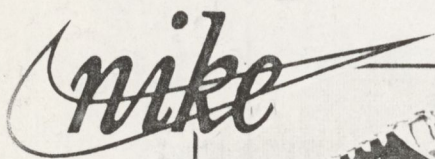
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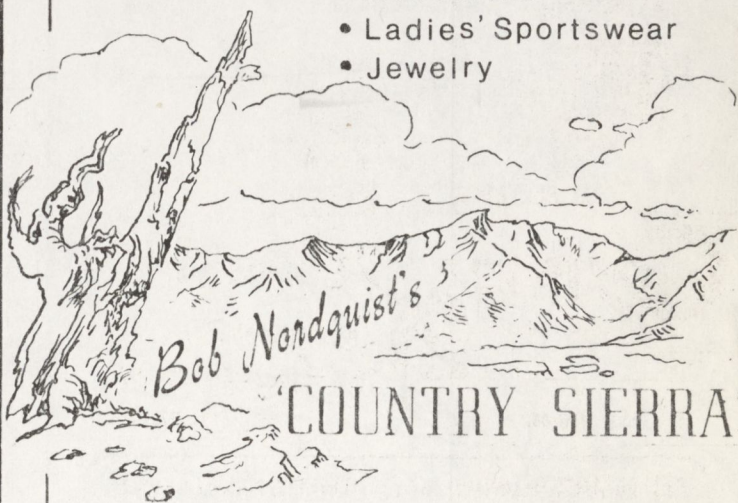
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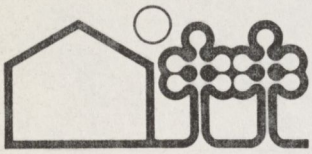
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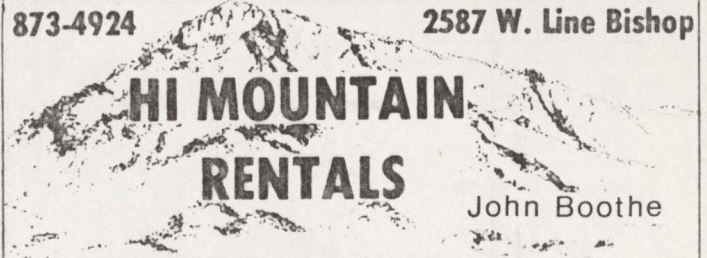
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## GRIM COUNT AT MONO

*By Tuesday morning of this week they had all been found, the bodies of six June Lake people who had set out on a camping trip to an island on Mono Lake on Saturday. Mono Deputy D.W. Fuller and other rescuers found them and their capsized, half-sunken motorboat, and figured they had underestimated the storm-generated waves of the broad lake. Fuller's crew of men were themselves driven off the lake by wind and snow that began as the search was being completed on Monday afternoon.*



**WE VOTE  
FOR HIM.  
HE WORKS  
FOR US.**

When you strip away all the hoop-la and publicity gimmicks of a political campaign, this election comes down to picking someone to do a job for us. This year, we're a lot more interested in getting things done than listening to snappy slogans.

Bob Sogge started this campaign walking door to door, asking for our ideas as well as our votes. He's learned a lot about us and the job we want done, and he's willing to do it.

He knows we're squeezed between higher taxes and higher inflation. He also knows the only way to take the pressure off is to balance the federal budget, to control inflation, and to cut the taxes of people who work for a living.

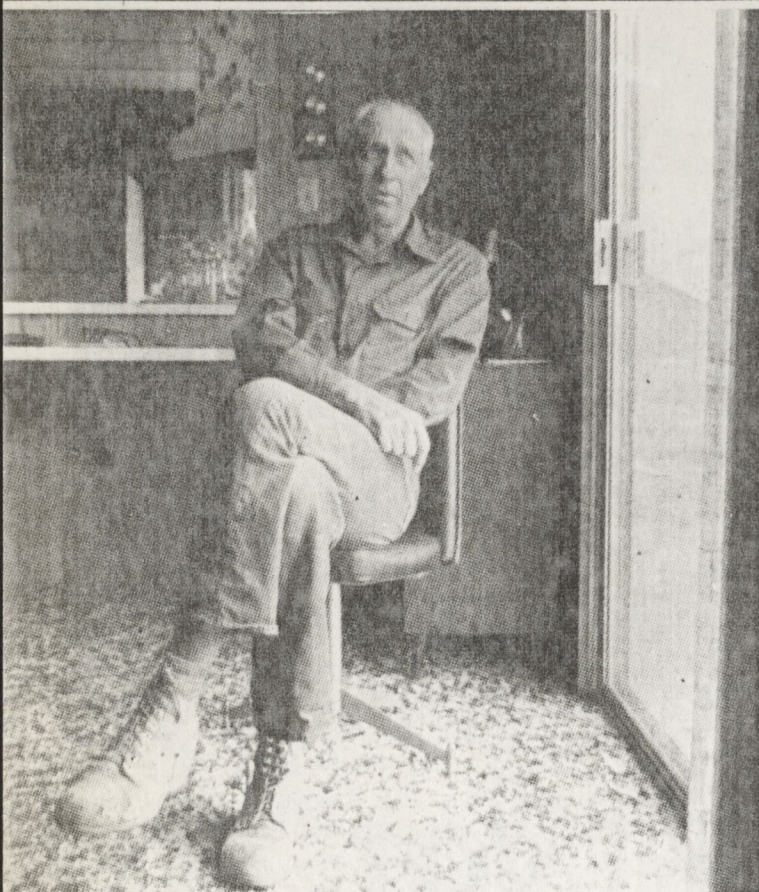
He knows our farmers can't live with artificial limitations on the water they need to produce the food America wants. He knows our people don't want welfare, they want productive work to do. He'll be a Congressman with the clout and determination to find jobs for the unemployed.

What it all boils down to is this: Bob Sogge knows there's a job to do in the Congress, and he's willing to do it....but he needs our help. If we do our part by voting for him, he'll do his part by working for us. We can't ask for more than that.

**SOGGE**  
**U.S. CONGRESS**

Paid and authorized by Sogge for Congress / Tom Fallgatter, Treasurer / P.O. Box 1666 / Bakersfield, CA 93302. A copy of our report is filed with and available for purchase from the Federal Election Commission / Washington, D.C.



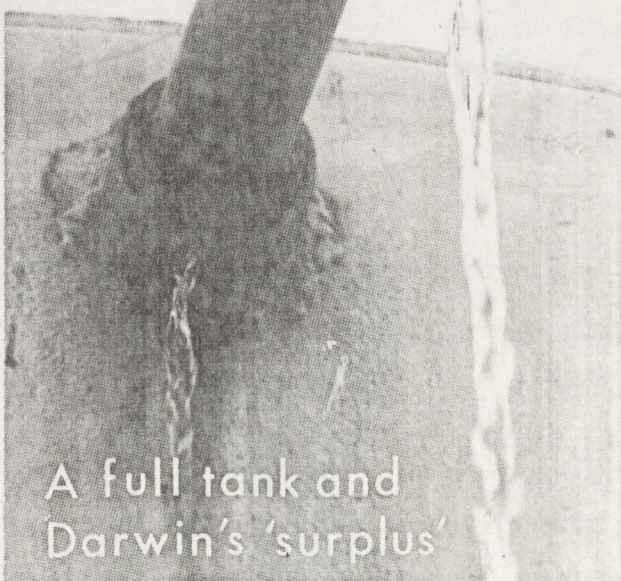


*In support of a new water system, Contractor Jim Lowrance complains of "different pipes, leaks and air locks."*

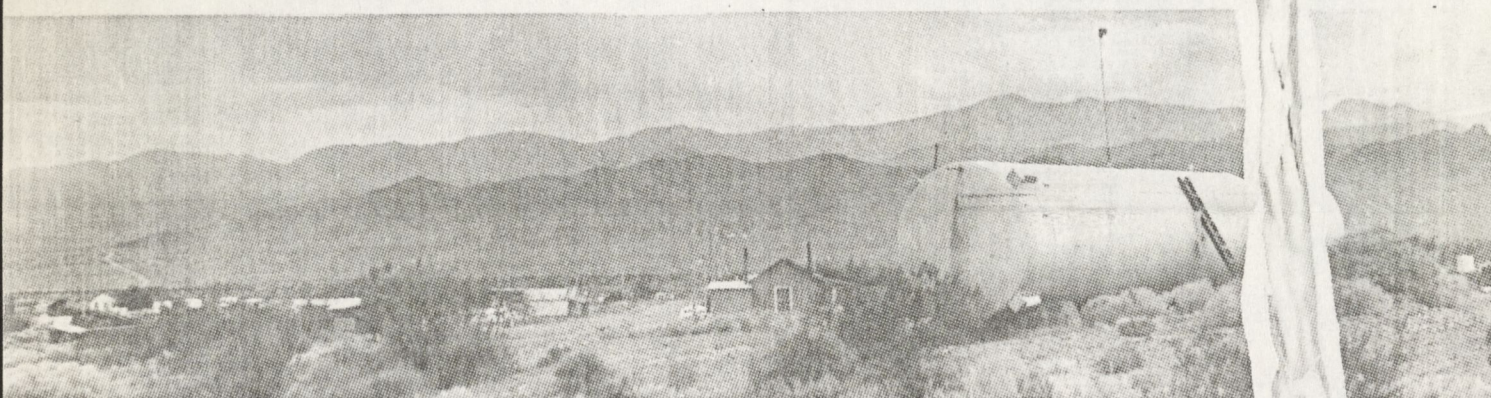
## Water and 'growth' at Darwin:

Photos: John Heston

These  
people  
want  
it...

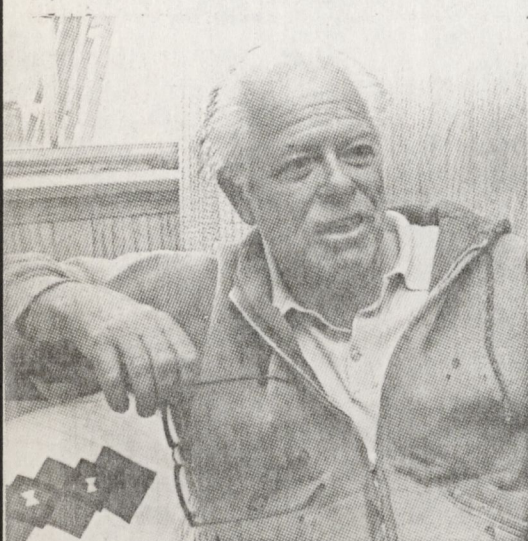


A full tank and  
Darwin's 'surplus'



*"The flag is up." A yellow marker visible from over the town signals that Darwin's tank is full for now at least. But it's still an unsure supply.*

*The Paul Thompsons retired to live in an uncrowded community, but they want to see a new water system that will support another 200 people. He is a member of the water board that stands now at "about three-to-two" in favor of a grant that would pay for a new system.*



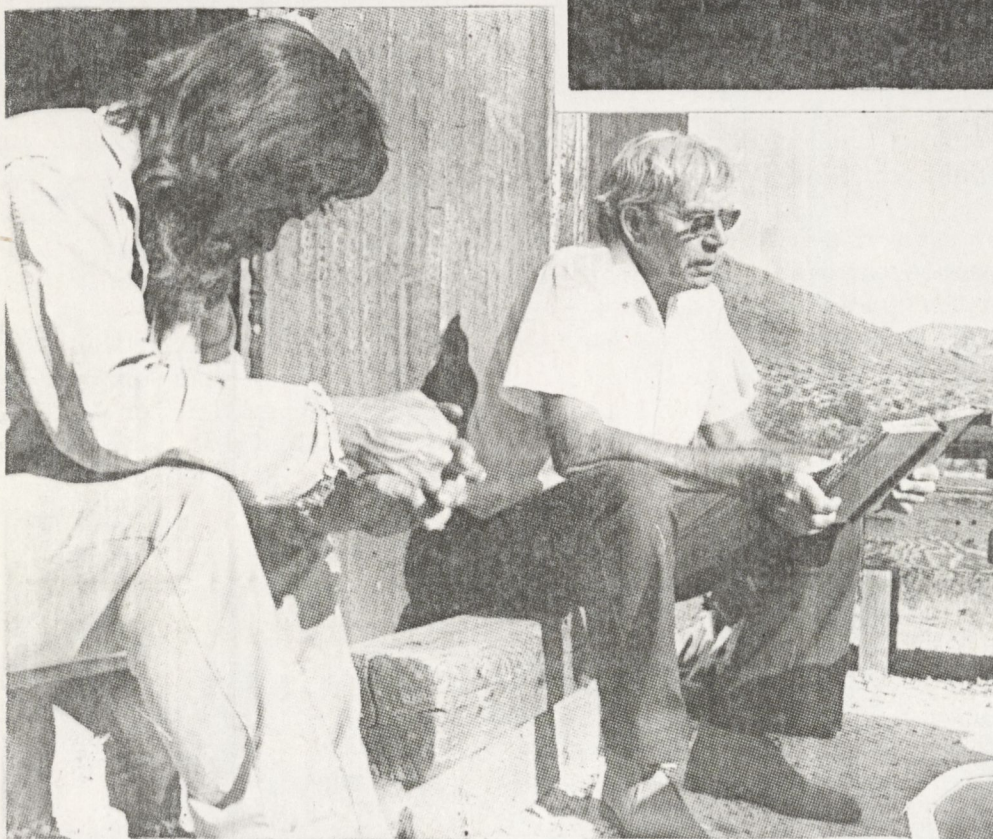
*The Thompsons greet visitors at the door of their house. A "hex sign" is typical of those in Pennsylvania-Dutch country.*



*In silhouette the abstract forms of Sculptor Gordon Newell present bold and delicate patterns in the setting sun.*

...but others seek,  
and often find,  
a different set of  
values there.

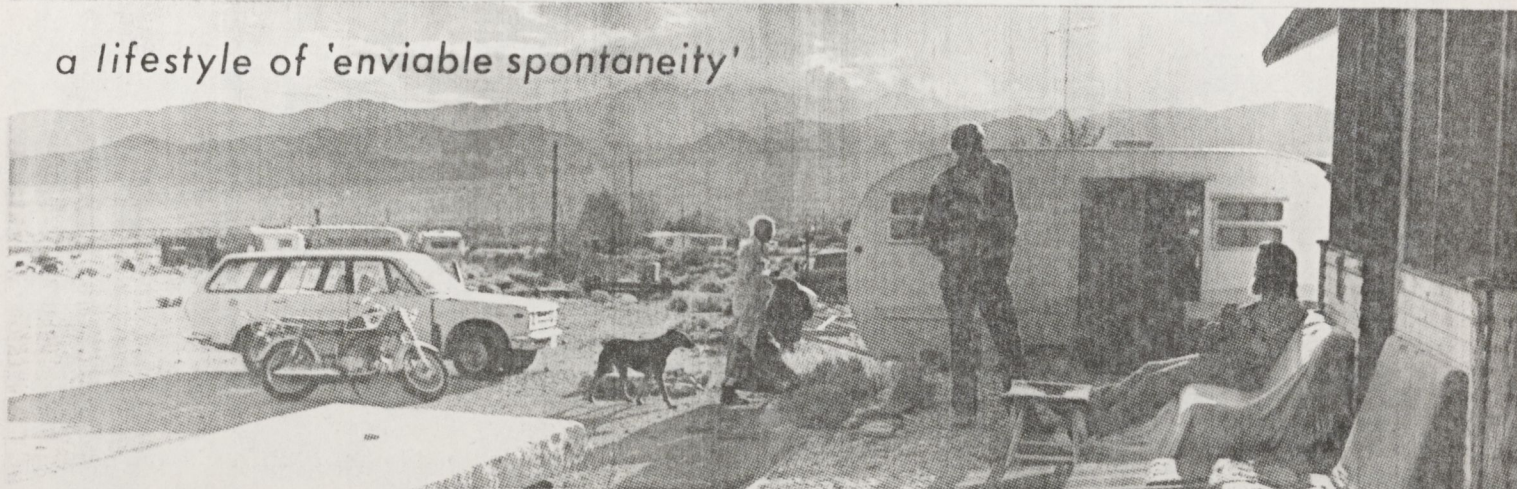
Having found the seclusion he needs for his work, a world-renowned sculptor sees no value in "growth" at Darwin, only the destruction of what he believes to be a better life: that of the mind and spirit.



In support of his view, the sculptor reads from a book of poetry by Robinson Jeffers: "...while this America settles in the mould of its vulgarity.... But for my children, I would have them keep their distance from the thickening center, corruption.." Life at "Newell's Place" captivates the visitor; the man, his son and apprentices talk and live with an enviable spontaneity, quick to "drop everything" and play a tune, read a poem, or uncork a bottle of good wine. For Newell it works: He is 72, looks 50.

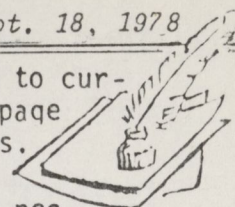


a lifestyle of 'enviable spontaneity'





The NEWS-LETTER welcomes letters and comment relevant to current public issues. The editors will publish on this page those considered timely and stating concise viewpoints.



Letters and statements should be addressed to PO Box 531, Independence 93526. The editors remind NEWS-LETTER's readers that publication of a letter does not necessarily imply that the editors are in agreement with its content, or assure its accuracy.

## RESPECT FOR THE LAW: WHERE IT BEGINS

To the editor:

Love, truth and example equal respect for authority. When parents fail to teach their children while very young to respect the property of others, to honor the law we live by and the officer we hire to uphold those laws, when they are older they will not know how to live within the law or how to conduct themselves.

In the case of some parents, they are an example of not having been taught.

If I was a young person who inflicted injury on an officer of the law, I would be very ashamed. If I were the parent of such a young person, words fail me in describing my feeling of shame.

Parents do their young people a disservice to side with their young people against the officer of the law. That is the young person who will tend toward arrogance and lawlessness, possibly for the rest of his or her life. This is not a happy prospect.

Parents are responsible to God, their creator, for the man or woman their children become.

It is my hope the families involved here will search their hearts as to just what they want out of life before they meet their Heavenly Father face to face, that they will pray together about it and establish long range goals.

In my opinion, it is nonsense that officers of the law should be transferred to another area because the citizenry resisted their upholding the law in the line of duty. Also, that any citizen would hold or attend any meeting prior to an investigation (if such an investigation is even needed).

If we are going to have safe streets and communities, we each have a responsibility to maintain it.

If there are any questions I can answer or help I can be in this matter, do look me up at Durmovin. I care about our nation, state and communities, and the young people therein.

- Pat McClendon  
Little Lake

## JACOBSON, Continued

has become a virtual crusade to rid the ballot of Glidden. His first suit against Glidden was won in the lower courts but Glidden appealed and the appellate court ruled that all three must run. In all the legal maneuverings until now Jacobson has fought his own cases, claiming he could not afford legal counsel. This time, however, an attorney prepared his case and the petition for a supreme court hearing was put aboard a bus Wednesday afternoon for filing in the court on Thursday.

For further court hearings time is running out. Jacobson had earlier taken his case to the San Francisco court personally, but once there he was advised that his "writ of supersedes" was incorrect; he needed in-

stead a "writ of mandate asking for a stay order." His attorney, Leland Bray, said that the Inyo clerk's office had "exceeded their jurisdiction" by ordering immediately the new ballots upon hearing the appeals court decision against Jacobson. The ballot order was not surprising; few people expected to hear more from the embattled Jacobson after his defeat in that court.

But it was learned that the printer at San Francisco had not yet begun to print the ballots for the third supervisorial district election. Bray's legal assistant, Greg Day, a law intern, hopes to get from the high court a decision that will stop any further action in the publication of the ballots. Day, in commenting on the case, said the appeals court decision in favor of Glidden is "contrary to common sense - and to the Constitution, the concept of one man-one vote. In this case, one voter residing outside the district disenfranchised 375 fully-qualified voters."

The persistently litigious Jacobson argues that "a lot of people don't understand the situation, including Roger Glidden. I feel that it is improper and illegal to have a primary election determined by a vote that had no legal standing."

And what is Glidden's view of the week's new development? "This is not affecting me at all. I think it's crazy to go back and forth to court. The simplest thing would have been a hand recount in the beginning."

"If anything, this will help Wilma. It looks like cats and dogs fighting and the election has been turned into a three-ring circus."

On Wednesday, Glidden issued a press release to the media. In part it read: "I have done nothing but defend myself against the legal attacks of Moe Jacobson....Because more voters preferred me to Jacobson, I have taken a position that will in the very least give the voters the opportunity to chose between what I and many others consider the logical candidates: myself and Wilma Muth."

Glidden added that he doesn't think that legal battles should be fought in the media - a line included in the release to the media.

Meanwhile the clerk's office at Independence will make no effort to stop the printing of the ballots unless it receives word from the court to halt the procedure.

Glidden makes his own legal claims based on the testimonies of witnesses who said they would have voted for him, breaking the tie, if they had voted in the third district, where they live, instead of the first district where they were directed to vote. It had not been the first of the registration errors.



Roger Glidden  
"not affected"



# Notes from B.K.

CONFLICT IS THE STUFF THAT NEWS IS MADE OF; newspeople find it sometimes in strange places. Americans are born with it, trained in it (programmed to worship it as competition whether on the playing field or in the market place), and so, hard-headed they stand gazing from thick skulls with the firm conviction that they are right and the other fellow quite naturally is wrong. The other day we shouldn't have been surprised to find such polarization fiercely working and firmly manifest in (would you believe!) the little community of 30-or-so souls living at Darwin. We went out there expecting to find the town firmly banded together in a community project to bring in water; our assumption, naturally, that everybody wants water, all he can get. Surprise! The issue is not nearly that clear; we went away with mixed emotions pulling, as it were, for both sides. When flint and steel come in conflict, you have polarization. Which is right? Neither; 'tis the spark that counts. Our story appears elsewhere on these pages.



Benett Kessler

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VERY PLEASANT PEOPLE DEPT: A number of people recommend Jane Kaiser at Bishop. She published the booklet, *You Can Go A Long Way, Baby*, It's about women and cars which are usually considered mutually antagonistic. The Kaisers of course should know; they are the folk who operate Mr. K's Automotive. Ms. K let's the lady readers know they aren't helpless when it comes to car care. Worth reading - even if you're a male.

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THE ONGOING STORY OF MY LIFE: Being put for long (expensive) minutes on "hold," when I call this office or that. I'm not sure that the phone company's new system which provides a music interlude helps any at all; the choices of selections remind me too much of the soft *schlock* heard in doctor's offices and supermarkets; it is supposed to calm the impatient beast in us. In any case, the Caltrans office is the first in Inyo County (so we're told) to install the new system. It's simple: when you're put on "hold," waiting for your party, you get a full orchestra while you wait. The trouble is, I'm afraid that the folk on the other end, figuring that you are mollified with music, will take their sweet time in getting to your call. That can be pretty expensive listening if you're making a toll call.

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HERE'S ONE FROM OUR ALCHEMICAL LAW-OF-PARADOX DEPT: It just could be that one of the county's treatment centers for alcoholics may wind up buying a liquor license. And how can that be? Well, New Horizons West is looking into the possibility of buying the old Beacon Tavern property just south of Bishop. The directors of New Horizons see in the facility a possible center for their alcohol-drug-juvenile program, and if they buy it (They may have a financial backer), the on-sale alcohol license goes with it. Chet Erskine, the NHW director, sees the license as a good investment, since in this area liquor licenses are going for top dollar. But possible buyers of the old Beacon are wary of the deal: any purchaser of the building will have to contend with one of those DWP five-year leases on the land - and no guarantee that the structure will not be removed or torn down. Says Erskine of the liquor license: "We could sell it later on."

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IT APPEARS AT LAST THAT THERE MAY BE ONE SMALL SHINING LIGHT IN A SPORT CRUDE AND DARK: I'm no fan of macho sports of any kind, but I can spot class when I see it, whatever the field. And, let's face it, the once big-mouthed Muhammad Ali proved the other night that class can show through even in the brutality of the boxing ring. At 36, Ali danced through 15 rounds and with a long-perfected poise born of a wisdom that only years can give, cooled that other fellow: what's-his-name, the snaggle-tooth type who likes to strut with the booze & dope crowd. "Class" is what a guy's got when he's as much at home in the ring - as in the best salons of heads of state - or with his eyes in a poetry or philosophy book; Ali's got it all.

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WE'LL BE TRIPPING DOWN TO LOS ANGELES THIS WEEKEND to attend a Press Club dinner and seminar on the assumption that the guy, Jerry Brown, will have something to say worth listening to. He'll be there, but probably will be overshadowed by such luminaries as Daniel Schorr, long-time news commentator who some years back let us know what was going on in the Pentagon under Tricky Dick's administration. I intend to ask Brown if he is aware that Inyo County exists on the face of the earth and that we have this little water problem.....

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YOU MAY HAVE CAUGHT A COUPLE OF NEW BY-LINES in last week's edition: Frank Burns and Les Hall. They've taken on part-time duties with the news service, representing us in Lone Pine and Bishop-Big-Pine, respectively. Les was until recently with Luther Motors at Bishop and had some journalism experience while in the service; Burns is a lieutenant colonel, retired, a former national pistol champion, member of the US Olympics committee, and was for a time associated with ABC's Wide World of Sports. You can save some toll calls to this office by contacting them.

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SOMEHOW THE NEWS-LETTER HAS MANAGED TO SURVIVE ITS FIRST YEAR OF PUBLICATION. We're a year old this next week. To say we've grown would be an understatement; for some reason, it managed to "catch on," and has grown far beyond our original circulation goal of 200. We thought 200 was about right then. The problem of cost remains, but with just a little more advertising we'll be able to reduce, again, our costs and subscription rates. That will be good news...and meanwhile may the news in your day be good news every day...

- Sincerely,

BK



NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

ERICK SCHAT HAS PULLED HIS PROPOSED BIG NEW bakery complex out of the new shopping center, "Cottonwood Plaza," on Bishop's Main St. It looks like an architectural design problem between Schat and the developer of the plaza; Schat wanted to design his own structure, but the general contractor on the job, Ron Hubbard, said the architectural plan for the entire complex was designed for a unit and that changes that Schat wanted would not be feasible. "We had a corner location," said the baker, "but we've pulled out for now."

THE ISSUE BETWEEN COUNTY OFFICIALS AND DWP over water metering in county communities may never have to go to court. Although a hearing is scheduled for October 2, negotiations are underway in which a settlement may be reached, this according to Greg James, the deputy district attorney handling the case. James said he has been talking to DWP's Paul Lane and Duane Georgeson. When DWP began its meter installation some time back, the county demanded an environmental impact report and secured a temporary restraining order. The project had been started over the widespread protests of Inyo water users who generally would prefer an increase in DWP's "flat rate" over metering.

MEANWHILE, THE DWP HAS TURNED IN ITS EIR DEManded by the court in its groundwater pumping fight with the county. An ornate publication with color photographs and graphs, the two-inch thick document is still under the careful scrutiny of county officials. A "public review" of the EIR gets underway on September 25 to last through Nov. 9. The new report is said to list five options to the recommended pumping project that raised the county's ire in the early '70's.

ANGERS HAVE COOLED SOMEWHAT AT LONE PINE and the organizer of a recent town meeting said the "hotheads are dropping out." Robert Frickel said he and a number of concerned citizens hope to meet with a panel of county officials - representatives of the sheriff's office, the district attorney, grand jury, probation department, a supervisor and others - in hopes of ironing out Lone Pine's sagging relations with law enforcement. At an earlier meeting two weeks ago a number of

people aired their complaints about what they think is the too-rough treatment of lawbreakers by the sheriff's office. So far the complaints are not substantiated. Frickel said he and others hope to resolve the issues publicly and has set Oct. 4 as the date of confrontation.

A SPECIAL PROBATION FUNDING COMMITTEE HAS elected to turn over the lion's share of county probation money to its own probation department even though it had the option to share the funding with two private rehabilitation agencies. Probation Officer John Lee had been the object of criticism by Inyo's District Attorney, L.H. Gibbons, and also by private alcohol and drug treatment program directors. But Lee won the day. However, it will remain up to the supervisors to determine - after discussion - just how the county's \$71,000 will be spent. Gibbons had wanted a much tougher probation policy.



IN SPITE OF THE COUNTY'S EFFORTS TO FENCE and upgrade Inyo's dumps, blowing trash - and very often, fire - continue to be a problem now that autumn's winds are beginning. Blowing paper from some of the dumps, like this one at Independence, scatters for hundreds of yards over nearby areas, and firemen are frequently called out to control fires.

eastern sierra news service

INYO COUNTY

INDEPENDENCE, CALIFORNIA

JOHN HESTON • BENETT KESSLER

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NEWS-LETTER

"May the news in your day be good news every day"

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